

other types of performance listed in 49 CFR 543.6(a)(3): promoting activation; preventing defeat or circumvention of the device by unauthorized persons; preventing operation of the vehicle by unauthorized entrants; and ensuring the reliability and durability of the device.

As required by 49 U.S.C. 33106 and 49 CFR 543.6(a)(4) and (5), the agency finds that GM has provided adequate reasons for its belief that the antitheft device will reduce and deter theft. This conclusion is based on the information GM provided about its antitheft device. This confidential information included a description of reliability and functional tests conducted by GM for the antitheft device and its components.

For the foregoing reasons, the agency hereby grants in full GM's petition for exemption for the MY 2000 Pontiac Grand Am car line from the parts-marking requirements of 49 CFR Part 541.

If GM decides not to use the exemption for this line, it must formally notify the agency, and, thereafter, the line must be fully marked as required by 49 CFR 541.5 and 541.6 (marking of major component parts and replacement parts).

NHTSA notes that if GM wishes in the future to modify the device on which this exemption is based, the company may have to submit a petition to modify the exemption. § 543.7(d) states that a Part 543 exemption applies only to vehicles that belong to a line exempted under this part and equipped with the antitheft device on which the line's exemption is based. Further, § 543.9(c)(2) provides for the submission of petitions "to modify an exemption to permit the use of an antitheft device similar to but differing from the one specified in that exemption." The agency wishes to minimize the administrative burden which § 543.9(c)(2) could place on exempted vehicle manufacturers and itself.

The agency did not intend in drafting Part 543 to require the submission of a modification petition for every change to the components or design of an antitheft device. The significance of many such changes could be *de minimis*. Therefore, NHTSA suggests that if the manufacturer contemplates making any changes the effects of which might be characterized as *de minimis*, it should consult the agency before preparing and submitting a petition to modify.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 33106; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: December 7, 1998.

**L. Robert Shelton,**

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 98-32964 Filed 12-10-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33679]

#### SierraPine—Lease and Operation Exemption—Sierra Pacific Industries

SierraPine, a noncarrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to lease and operate approximately 12 miles of rail line known as the Amador Branch, which is owned by Sierra Pacific Industries (Sierra Pacific),<sup>1</sup> between milepost 0.0 at Ione and milepost 12.0 at Martell,<sup>2</sup> in Amador County, CA.

Although there was another planned and approved transaction involving the sale of this same rail line to Sierra Railroad Company (Sierra),<sup>3</sup> SierraPine indicates in its notice that Sierra Pacific and Sierra have mutually agreed not to complete this sale. Therefore, Sierra Pacific retains control and ownership of the above-described rail line.

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after November 25, 1998.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33679, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on James F. Flint, Grove, Jaskiewicz and Cobert, 1730 M Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

<sup>1</sup> See *Sierra Pacific Industries—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Amador Central Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33378 (STB served Apr. 9, 1997).

<sup>2</sup> The Amador Branch includes a yard and repair shops at Martell as well as additional spur trackage at the Sierra Pacific mill and particle board plant located at milepost 11.6.

<sup>3</sup> See *Sierra Railroad Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Sierra Pacific Industries*, STB Finance Docket No. 33525 (STB served Dec. 2, 1997).

Decided: December 4, 1998.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-32999 Filed 12-10-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of Thrift Supervision

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 3, 1998.

The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Interested persons may obtain copies of the submission(s) by calling the OTS Clearance Officer listed. Send comments regarding this information collection to the OMB reviewer listed and to the OTS Clearance Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20552.

**OMB Number:** 1550-0096.

**Form Number:** OTS Form 1661.

**Type of Review:** Extension of an already approved collection.

**Title:** Minority Thrift Certification.

**Description:** This information is needed to help OTS remain a reliable source of information regarding the universe of minority-owned thrifts, in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 308 of FIRREA.

**Respondents:** Savings and Loan Associations and Savings Banks.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 34.

**Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondents:** .5 hours.

**Frequency of Response:** Annually.

**Estimated Total Reporting Burden:** 17 hours.

**Clearance Officer:** Mary Rawlings-Milton, (202) 906-6028, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20552.

**OMB Reviewer:** Alexander Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

**Celia Winter,**

*Director, Dissemination Branch.*

[FR Doc. 98-33002 Filed 12-10-98; 8:45 am]

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